

April 2005  
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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



City of Seattle  
Department of Neighborhoods  
Greg Nickels, Mayor

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Clean Scheduled to Keep Seattle Beautiful



Spring is just around the corner and it soon will be time for Spring Clean, Seattle's one-of-a-kind clean up event organized and coordinated by SPU. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, the annual event is unique in that it provides citizens with support to spruce up their neighborhoods. Neglected open spaces or public areas, are prime project candidates.

Typical projects done by community members over the years have included picking up litter, weeding and restoring planting strips and traffic circles, storm drain stenciling, pruning bushes and painting out graffiti. Last year, clean up projects occurred in all of Seattle's neighborhoods. Major clean ups involving more than 20 people, took place at Queen Anne Hill, Pigeon Point in West Seattle, Georgetown, Rainier Valley, SODO, Magnusen Park and Ballard. Many groups participate every year. A new participant of note was a team from Starbucks Headquarters.


Citizens will be receiving a letter from the Mayor inviting them to participate and a copy of the registration form which they can use to indicate what they are interested in. They can receive free resources provided by or through SPU including

help planning their event, tools, clean up bags, gloves, safety vests, plants and waste pick up services.

A Kick-Off Event will be held Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Delridge Community Center in West Seattle. The Mayor is scheduled to speak and teams of participants will work on street and habitat clean-ups, storm drain stenciling and graffiti paint outs. The Event will focus on increasing awareness of nearby Longfellow Creek, one of Seattle's important urban streams.

As part of the Mayors' Clean and Green Seattle Initiative, Spring Clean is an important part of helping to keep our City home beautiful. Again this year, SPU will be partnering with the Department of Neighborhood and the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide program services.



Contact Peter McGraw at the Department of Neighborhoods to find out about Spring Clean events in your community. He can be reached at 615-0950 or by email at [peter.mcgraw@seattle.gov](mailto:peter.mcgraw@seattle.gov) 



# DOWNTOWN Transit Tunnel Closure COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Seattle commuters can expect some big changes this fall as the downtown bus tunnel will be closed for retrofitting. This is the beginning of a major public works project, coming in several stages: tunnel closure, tunnel conversion, and new tunnel sections. Seattle's very own SDOT has provided us with this very helpful information on frequently asked questions

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE TUNNEL?

In order to retrofit and upgrade the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel for use by both buses and light rail, it needs to be closed for up to two years. The tunnel will close in September 2005.

- All tunnel entrances will be closed while the tunnel is retrofitted.
- During the closure, buses that normally use the tunnel will travel on surface streets. Passengers should visit their transit agency's web site in the weeks prior to the September 2005 tunnel closure to check for new boarding and exiting locations.
- Tunnel bus routes will be relocated to several different Downtown streets to ease the impacts on traffic, including Second, Third, and Fourth avenues, with Third Avenue being a transit-only corridor during peak commute hours.
- Many Downtown bus stops will be upgraded with new shelters, benches and better lighting on surface streets to accommodate the increased number of transit passengers.
- The Metro customer service office in the tunnel will be moved to a new location.

## MOVING BUSES THROUGH DOWNTOWN

While the tunnel is closed, tunnel buses will move to surface streets. Below you will find a comprehensive list of links and information aimed at helping minimize the effects of the increased number of buses on surface streets while the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel is closed for construction



## WHERE DOES MY BUS STOP?

- King County Metro Transit, <http://transit.metrokc.gov> or call (206) 553-3000
- Sound Transit, <http://www.soundtransit.org/riding/fac/stexpress/> or call (888)889-6368.
- Community Transit, <http://www.commtrans.org> or call (425) 353-RIDE or (800) 562-1375.

When the tunnel closes, Community Transit will add five minutes to the running time of buses through downtown Seattle to account for traffic issues.

Metro and Community Transit will carefully monitor bus travel times and how the new bus stops are working in case adjustments are needed during this construction period.

RideShare Information - Provides you an easy way to find others who are interested in sharing their commute in a carpool or vanpool in the Puget Sound area.

## CONVERTING THE TUNNEL

Light rail is coming to downtown Seattle! Beginning in 2009, light rail will provide an alternative for traveling in and out of downtown Seattle.

In order to prepare the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel for use by both trains and buses, the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel must be closed and retrofitted. During the two years of tunnel closure that begins in September 2005:

- Buses that run in the tunnel will be shifted to surface streets,
- The existing rails will be replaced,
- The electrical and mechanical systems will be upgraded, and improvements will be made to the fire and safety systems,
- A state-of-the-art communications system will be installed,



- Closed-circuit television will be upgraded,
- A new integrated signaling system is being installed for buses and trains, and
- The trackbed will be lowered at stations to allow for smooth boarding onto low-floor trains.

**Third Avenue Restrictions** - Most of the buses that run in the tunnel will be shifted onto Third Avenue during the temporary closure of the tunnel. Third Avenue will become a transit-priority street, and as a result some new restrictions will be in place for Third Avenue from 6-9 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. Third Avenue will be a transit-only corridor, with limited use



by other vehicles. This is to ensure that buses can move as efficiently and quickly as possible during the morning and afternoon rush hours. During those periods, other vehicles will have limited circulation and business access.

**Safety Information** - Additional Seattle Police Department officers will be assigned to control traffic and pedestrians at key Downtown intersections. Additionally, the police and security currently assigned to the tunnel will be moved up onto the surface during the temporary tunnel closure.

## NEW SECTION OF THE TUNNEL PINE STREET STUB TUNNEL

To prepare for light rail, Sound Transit is building a short extension to the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel under Pine Street near the Paramount Theater to allow trains running in the Downtown tunnel to stop and reverse direction.

Construction has begun and will continue through November 2006. During that time, Pine Street between Seventh and Boren avenues will be reduced to two westbound lanes during the a.m. and p.m. peak periods, and will be reduced as needed to one westbound lane at all other times.

More details on the Pine Street Stub Tunnel is available here: <http://www.soundtransit.org/projects/svc/link/downtown.asp#timeline> 🌐

## NEIGHBOR appreciation day student art contest

The 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Neighbor Appreciation Day was Saturday, February 12, 2005. The City encouraged Seattle residents to celebrate Neighbor Appreciation Day by saying "thank you!" to those who have made their neighborhood a nicer, safer, place to live and play.

One of the events was a festive celebration for the city-wide 2005 Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting card art contest winners, their families, teachers, and principals. Held at Lafayette Elementary School in West Seattle, the ceremony showcased the artistic talents of Seattle students.

Mayor Greg Nickels gave the award certificates while Councilmembers David Della and Richard Conlin were on hand along with Seattle School Board Director Irene Stewart to congratulate the winners.



Melissa Carter, a fourth grader at Lafayette Elementary School in West Seattle, was first place winner of the student art contest whose depiction of neighbors helping neighbors adorns the 2005 Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting cards. There were a number of runners-up this year, as there were a record number of entries. To view all of these inspired pieces, go to our website at:

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/appday/art.htm> 🌐

# JACK Straw & Hamilton MIDDLE School

Sixty eighth-graders recently gathered in their school auditorium to celebrate and congratulate each other. What was the occasion? Their own CD release party! These students worked for over a month composing their own CD, an audio tour of site descriptions and oral histories that capture the history of their school's community.

"Hearing Time: A Walking Tour of Wallingford" was a collaborative audio arts project produced by Jack Straw Productions and Hamilton International Middle School, with the special support of the Department of Neighborhoods. Jack Straw's educational staff, artists and engineers,

walk, bus, or drive every day on their way to school. Long-time Wallingford residents were also provided with the opportunity to bond with the teenagers in, literally for some, their own backyards.

Students began the project by researching Wallingford's landmark community sites, like the 45<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic (Wallingford's Historic Firehouse); Wallingford Playfield; Boys and Girls Club; QFC (Food Giant); Guild 45<sup>th</sup> Theater; Durn Good Grocery; Moon Temple Restaurant; Dick's Drive-in; Harold's Fine Lighting; Wallingford Presbyterian Church; Dunn Lumber; and the Wallingford bungalow. They compiled and reviewed a variety of research sources, such as historical newspaper articles, photographs, maps, historical and business websites, and information from Seattle's historical societies. Their most meaningful informational source, however, was Wallingford's community members, business owners, and storytellers. After receiving training by Jack Straw engineers in the art of interviewing, students conducted and recorded oral history interviews with these narrators, which provided unique stories and perspectives for the audio descriptions.

There were many successes to this project. The students were able to connect with its school's community, and the community was able to connect with its school's youth. The students were also given the opportunity to engage in a real community project, which gave real-life context to their history class and provided insight into the historical perspectives and community issues that are most important to them. The oral history interviews gave the students a strong understanding of the importance of community and the value of collecting and sharing local histories. Students were able to sharpen writing skills,

along with community historians and storytellers, designed and implemented the project to lead two 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington State History classes through the CD's production.

This project gave students an up-close and personal perspective of Washington history through the lens of the community within which they



The Wallingford History Audio Tour CD and map is available for check-out at the following locations. Or, you can check out the online version of the tour at: <http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/hamilton/wallingford/>

### **JACK STRAW PRODUCTIONS**

4261 Roosevelt Way Northeast  
(206) 634-0919  
Hours: 9AM – 6PM, M-F

### **FREMONT PUBLIC ASSOCIATION**

1501 North 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
(206) 694-6700  
Hours: 8:30AM – 5PM, M-F

### **UNIVERSITY HOUSE AT WALLINGFORD**

4400 Stone Way North  
(206) 545-8400  
Hours: 9AM – 5PM, M-F

### **WALLINGFORD NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE**

2100-A North 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
(behind Tully's)  
(206) 632-3165  
Hours: 10AM – 3PM, M-Th;  
11AM – 2PM, F

If you have any questions or are interested in ordering a "Hearing Time" CD, please call  
(206) 634-0919.

develop awareness of audio communication, and build deductive thinking skills. Finally, the students built technology skills, and engaged in a rewarding hands-on studio experience at Jack Straw's professional recording studios. Most importantly, this project enhanced student self-esteem and academic confidence, and provided very important academic, technical, and creative skills. 🌐

## **HAPPENINGS** **BALLARD** **in** your neighborhood

### **PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT PROMPTS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

A pedestrian accident at 15th NW & NW 87th St on February 17 resulted in critical injuries to a 12-year-old Ballard boy. On March 11th SDOT announced that a full signal would be installed on this busy arterial by establishing a new preferred crossing for pedestrians at 15th NW and Holman Rd. Surrounding neighbors and the entire Ballard community are very supportive of this move, as it has been an improvement proposed for several years.

### **DELRIDGE**

#### **TRAFFIC ISSUES IN HIGH POINT**

Tom Phillips, Seattle Housing Authority High Point Hope VI Project Manager, reported that the City of Seattle and SHA have agreed to make significant street improvements from 35<sup>th</sup> Ave SW to Forest Lawn Cemetery along Sylvan Way SW. The improvements include new stop lights, 25-foot width streets, and a center median. Although this comes as good news, the improvements will not happen for another 1-2 years. Residents complain that cars travel too fast along this arterial and make it extremely unsafe for children who walk to High Point Elementary School, as well as for other pedestrians.

SDOT staff suggested the community utilize the speed watch program where residents use a radar device to monitor and display vehicle speeds. SDOT agreed to reevaluate present school crossing locations along Sylvan Way, as well as the need for a full signal light (presently pedestrian light only) at 35<sup>th</sup> Ave SW/SW Raymond, near the High Point Library. Pete Spalding, representing the Delridge Neighborhoods District Council, reemphasized the need for SDOT and the City to address future traffic patterns in Delridge, given the recent opening of a new Home Depot Store and planned 196-unit housing development along Sylvan Way just south of High Point.

#### **LEADERSHIP FUND IN WHITE CENTER**

The White Center Community Development Association has created the *White Center Neighborhood Improvement Program* to support local grassroots organizations, neighbors, residents, and businesses by building local leadership and capacity in White Center. The program would fund such projects as starting a block watch, hosting a block party, marketing the business community, murals, education forums, and celebrating volunteerism. The program is unique in that grant recipients must "give back" in some way to the White Center community. For example, a recipient would volunteer to participate in a CDA project, donate services, office space, or equipment. \$1000 is the maximum amount awarded per project.

Mike Mercer

Happenings, continued on following page...



## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

### SOUNDWAY.ORG

The group interested in purchasing the City-owned Soundway property in the Riverview neighborhood now has a website, [soundway.org](http://soundway.org). The Cascade Land Conservancy has also agreed to be the group's fiscal (escrow) agent, according to Matt Houghton, Riverview resident spearheading the community's fundraising effort. The City's Fleets and Facilities Department has informed the group that they have nine months to raise \$1.3 to \$1.8 million or the property will be sold to a developer to build more housing. The Delridge Neighborhoods District Council and the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats have given their support to preserve the property as public open space.

### OTHER HAPPENINGS IN DELRIDGE

The Highland Park Improvement Club celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this month by hosting the premier showing of the Diaries of White Center, a historic documentary produced by students at Chief Sealth High School. Throughout the years the group has supported youth sports, neighborhood improvement projects, and schools in Highland Park. The group continues to hold monthly swing dance events to encourage more residents to join the club.

The Highland Park Action Committee had a successful traffic circle clean-up event this month. Ten residents volunteered to remove weeds and debris and install new plants. They hope to clean one circle each month. Dara Duoug, Director of the Khmer Cultural Museum in White Center, was invited to HPAC to give a presentation about the museum and the Killing Fields Exhibit.

Over 600 people attended the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association groundbreaking celebration to begin the reconstruction of old Cooper Elementary School. The former school will be remodeled into artist live-in studios and will house several performing arts and environmental organizations.

## DOWNTOWN

### PIONEER SQUARE LEARNS OF LOSS OF TROLLEY SERVICE

King County officials informed the Pioneer Square community that it is looking likely that the waterfront streetcar will cease operations as early as September of this year for a period as long as 15 years. This was the first inkling Pioneer Square had of any impending change in service. County staff said that a combination of the Seattle Art Museum's schedule for Sculpture Park construction (which includes the removal of the current trolley maintenance facility) and the County's inability to rebuild the facility somewhere else soon enough to have continued service make sense were the reasons for the termination. While the County continues to seek a suitable site to rebuild, it has become clear to them that pushing ahead now with building a new facility would likely result in its completion shortly before Viaduct construction would begin, forcing a shutdown. Community members expressed dismay at not being a part of the planning process and

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## ECOSS & Public Health - Seattle & King County's TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Offers Free Indoor Air Quality Assessments for West Seattle Residents & Schools

The Tobacco Prevention Program and the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) are collaborating to provide education on indoor air quality (IAQ) through free home assessments to West Seattle residents and through



Environmental Coalition of  
South Seattle

Providing Environmental Education and  
Assistance to Businesses and  
Communities  
in the Puget Sound Region



Public Health  
Seattle & King County

TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAM

clean indoor air evaluations for West Seattle school buildings. The project started in the fall of 2004 and continues through June, 2005.

The school evaluations have been coordinated through the Seattle School District and the Environmental Health division at Public Health – Seattle & King County. This utilized a voluntary program created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called Tools

## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

for Schools. Initial evaluations of IAQ were conducted by Sid Forman, Health and Environmental Investigator III in the fall of 2004. The findings of his evaluations were reported back to the indoor air coordinator at the Seattle School District. Follow-up evaluations will be conducted this spring.

The collaboration is now focusing on homes with children to promote clean indoor air. Poor air quality can result in more colds, coughs, asthma attacks and even bronchitis in some children. Probably the most common pollutant is secondhand smoke, so we encourage parents to quit smoking or to take it outside. The free home visits provide education and recommendations to families to achieve healthier homes. ECOSS is currently offering visits to residents in South and West Seattle. They also have interpreters for those who speak East African, Spanish and Vietnamese.

**For more information about IAQ or to schedule a home assessment,** please contact Jeanne Johnson by phone at (206) 675-3000 or by email at [Jeanne@ecoss.org](mailto:Jeanne@ecoss.org) or visit their website at [www.ecoss.org](http://www.ecoss.org).

**For information about the Tobacco Prevention Program,** please contact Michael Leon-Guerrero at (206) 296-7613 or by email at [michael.leon-guerrero@metrokc.gov](mailto:michael.leon-guerrero@metrokc.gov).

**For information about the school assessments,** please contact Sid Forman, Health and Environmental Investigator III at (206) 205-8070 or by email at [sid.forman@metrokc.gov](mailto:sid.forman@metrokc.gov). 🌐

concern at the loss of tourist dollars from the termination of the trolley. They stressed how strongly they feel that the historic trolley is identified with their historic district. This news also follows on the heels of the Council's decision to place the new service center at the Morrison and controversy surrounding the plans for Occidental Park.

### SERVICE CENTER HEADED FOR PIONEER SQUARE

To the relief of the Chinatown/International District and the chagrin of Pioneer Square, the City Council voted on February 28 to direct funding for a new downtown service center to the Morrison Hotel, operated by the Downtown Emergency Service Center. The process to site the new center has caused anguish in the ID, Pioneer Square, and Belltown as a site in each neighborhood was considered. While there has long been broad agreement that a significant, new day center to serve homeless men was needed, siting has been difficult. DESC submitted a proposal that provided more services at a lower cost sooner than the other two prospective sites. The rub with Pioneer Square is that the City has long acknowledged an informal moratorium on new or expanded human services in recognition of the fact that the neighborhood needs significant new work force and market-rate housing to provide a healthy balance to the large number of missions, shelters, and other services there. DESC convinced City Councilmembers that this new funding would help them to more effectively serve a homeless population that is already patronizing the Morrison. Pioneer Square advocates intend to push the City to implement public safety improvements prior to the opening of the new service center.

### MARDI GRAS SEASON PASSES SMOOTHLY

The Mardi Gras season proved mostly uneventful in Seattle this year. The Seattle Police Department implemented a plan that emphasized strong enforcement of laws to set a tone that lawlessness would not be tolerated. Several hundred tickets, mostly for minor offenses, were issued during the six-day "season." Some of the nightclubs in Pioneer Square have expressed concern that the heavy enforcement hurt their businesses during the week as attendance was off from past years. While several factors seemed to be responsible (attendance was lower in New Orleans this year as well), the City will work with Pioneer Square prior to next year to address concerns while ensuring public safety.

### ID PROPOSES GREEN STREET PROJECT

Members of the International District are proposing that Maynard Ave S between Jackson and Main St be developed as a green street. Graduate students from the UW have been working with the community to develop alternate design proposals. The intent is to help draw community stakeholders up Maynard Ave and into the Danny Woo Community Garden. The green street concept would serve as a visual link to the garden in addition to making the pedestrian experience on the street much more pleasant.

Happenings, continued on following page...

# HAPPENINGS

## EAST

### in your neighborhood

#### GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE CABRINI FIRST HILL APARTMENTS

The groundbreaking for Cabrini First Hill Apartments, an affordable senior housing development, sponsored by the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, took place Friday February 4, 2005.

The site, formerly an empty lot, is located in the heart of First Hill at the corner of Boren Ave and Madison St. This has been an area of concern to the neighborhood for many years.

In spite of the earlier opposition to the project by some community members, church officials and advocates from the Low Income Housing Institute prevailed and the senior housing project will become a reality. The site will be the location of a 6-story building that will house 50 units for seniors.

Archbishop A. J. Brunett presided over the ceremony, which was attended by Mayor Nickels, federal and county officials, and members of the First Hill Community.

#### GREATER DUWAMISH

##### NEIGHBORHOOD STREET FUND

Representatives from Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) have contacted the District Coordinator regarding the Neighborhood Street Fund/Cumulative Reserve Fund for 2005. Apparently, two of the three projects that were prioritized by the Greater Duwamish District Council late last summer were funded. South Park will continue with Phase III of sidewalk repairs with 2005 funding and carry-over funding from 2004. Beacon Hill will begin to look at possibly reconfiguring the intersection of Beacon Ave S, 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S, and S Forest. This was identified as a priority due to the siting of the new Beacon Hill Library. The Georgetown request was not funded. However, the District Coordinator will be working with both the community and SDOT to do additional prep work should they want to resubmit for 2006.

#### NORTH BEACON HILL COUNCIL SETS PRIORITIES

This month's North Beacon Hill Council meeting focused on setting goals and priorities for the year. Recognizing that development and future changes are inevitable, they want to be organized and prepared. To complement the existing standing committees, they have also decided to create other committees that community member's feel passionate about. The four new committees are Outreach, Economic Development/Revitalization, Quality of Life, and the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) rollout later this spring.

#### LAKE UNION

##### WALLINGFORD NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN GUIDELINES

After many months of attempting to come to agreement on Design

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Accommodations for persons with  
disabilities provided upon request.

Printed on recycled paper.



Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting cards are still available free to anyone throughout the year. If you would like to send cards to citizens in recognition of their special contributions to their neighborhood, please let us know, and we will be more than happy to supply you with however many you need. They are also available at all Neighborhood Service Centers and public libraries throughout Seattle.



## U DISTRICT Clean & Green creates NEW PARTNERS

Saturday, February 12 was not only Neighbor Appreciation Day citywide, it was also the University District's turn to clean up their act. This Mayoral initiative began as a neighborhood clean-up activity; but a few months back, it added a "green" side. For the



University District, this meant hundreds of plants from the Seattle Department of Transportation finding their way into the new

tree pits on the Ave. Nearly 70 people showed up that Saturday to spruce up the street and plant the perennials, get garbage and litter out of public places, and clean up some of the alleys. Crews working on this project included University of Washington students, homeless youth, service providers, Chamber of Commerce staffers, neighbors, and Seattle Works and Department of Corrections clients. Thank you Mayor Nickels for visiting the businesses that have agreed to "sponsor" a Giving Meter. The Green Meter will be located in their shops to help advertise this project and help collect money. Hopefully, Giving Meter revenue will be used to employ homeless youth on projects that will improve the District for years to come. 🌍

## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

Guidelines for the joint Wallingford/Fremont planning areas, the neighborhoods are still at odds. In the summer of 2004, Wallingford completed neighborhood specific design guidelines after more than a year of community meetings. The guidelines included part of the joint Wallingford/Fremont planning area, prompting concern from Fremont residents who were not involved in the Design Guideline planning meetings. The Fremont Neighborhood Council sent a letter to the City stating its concerns. Since that time, Department of Neighborhoods and DPD have worked with both neighborhoods to come up with amendments to the design guidelines that would be acceptable to everyone, although the neighborhoods have been unable to reach any agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached soon, Council will have to make a decision on whether to pass the guidelines as proposed; vote to pass the design guidelines with amendments; or make no decision until a later date.

### MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

#### DISTRICT COUNCIL AMENDS BYLAWS FOR GREATER INCLUSION

The Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council amended its bylaws in January to allow for membership from organizations that do not have formal bylaws. The move is aimed at opening up the council to more groups from underrepresented populations. In the past, smaller, less formalized groups were barred from membership. The District Council hopes its actions will be a model for other district councils in Seattle.

#### MAGNOLIANS TAKE BRIDGE NEWS IN STRIDE

About 50 people attended the Magnolia Community Club meeting in January to hear Kirk Jones of SDOT report on the increased cost projections for the Magnolia Bridge replacement. Jones announced that the estimated costs for the alternatives under consideration roughly doubled from the original estimate and that as a result, SDOT may consider a new alternative, to rehabilitate the existing bridge structure. Residents were most concerned about the time the bridge would be out of commission for construction. The rehab option would have the longest closure time - up to two years. Most seemed willing to wait for more information from SDOT on the cost effectiveness of a rehab option before taking a position.

### NORTH

#### DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS SUPPORTS AFRICAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

With support from Department of Neighborhoods staff, community members have secured a Small Sparks award to support a Cultures of Africa community celebration in March. There are significant numbers of recent immigrants in the North Seattle and Shoreline areas from African countries, including Gambia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. The North Seattle Family Center provides services to many of these people.

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood **NORTHEAST**

### **“YOUTH ROCKS SHOW” - SEATTLE YOUTH GARDENWORKS SHINES**

Sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Seattle Youth Gardenworks (SYGW) has been growing steadily since that first seed was planted 10 years ago. This year, at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, those years of work and cultivation bloomed as the SYGW took top honors, the Founders Cup, for best overall display among the 25 show gardens. The youth's garden, “Urban Land Use and Food Security” also won a gold medal and the American Horticultural Society Award for best design that includes care for the environment. Beyond just winning prizes, SYGW has successfully trained hundreds of young people in organic gardening, farming, and marketing.

### **UNIVERSITY DISTRICT YOUTH CENTER HOSTS FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**

The program that has been operating drop-in services for homeless youth for decades now, in the “yellow house”, held its first major fundraiser on Wednesday, February 16 in the historic Wilsonian Ballroom. The center is a program of Catholic Community Services and is a true cornerstone of services in the District. Not only does the house offer its own case managers and drop-in activities, but it also houses a certified Seattle Public School high school program (from which increasing numbers of homeless youth graduate), mental health and substance abuse counseling, and employment services. In 2004, UDYC assisted 504 youth with over 5,000 visits logged in at the drop-in center. Thirty-one of the youth visiting moved from the streets into stable, permanent housing.

## **NORTHWEST**

### **VITAMILK PROPERTY CONTRACT REZONE**

The Dairy Development Committee completed its work in responding to the proposed contract rezone made by Lorig & Associates, the erstwhile developers of the former Vitamilk Dairy property. Representatives from the committee presented their draft recommendations to the Green Lake Community Council at a special meeting held this month. Based on discussions with the community, Committee Chair Ref Lindmark crafted the final version of the recommendations in a letter that was sent to Department of Planning and Development, to the Hearing Examiner, and to Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck. The recommendations include goals and recommendations that speak to zoning, design, parking, permitted uses, unacceptable uses, pedestrian amenities, public open space, parking, and alley setbacks. In general, the community supported the work of the committee, which has been meeting rigorously over the past several months.

### **HALLER LAKE RESPONDS TO INGRAHAM BALL FIELD LIGHTING**

Residents of Haller Lake continue to voice their concerns about Seattle School's proposed installation of high-intensity lighting of the field at By

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)

## Successful **Clean & Green** at Greenwood Park

Mayor Nickels opened the fourth year of Clean and Green with a well-attended event at Greenwood Park on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Friends of Greenwood Park, students from the nearby North Seattle Boys and Girls Club, and other interested



residents joined the Mayor, along with Parks, SPU, and DON staff to weed and plant bulbs in the park and pick-up litter on surrounding streets.

The morning's light drizzle did little to dampen the spirits of all of those who

pitched in to help. Even a few local neighbors who were out for their morning exercise in the park volunteered on the spot to mulch the newly planted bulbs. There were plenty of refreshments on hand thanks to the donations of a host of



local merchants. Greenwood neighbors take considerable pride in this, one of Seattle's newest parks and they all enjoyed the opportunity to join City departments in this community effort. 🌍

## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

Ingraham High School. According to residents, data supplied by the School District indicates that they will be in frequent violation of acceptable noise levels as established by City code. They also note that the primary beneficiaries of the additional number of late evenings will be a host of non-school activities, including private recreational leagues. The Hearing Examiner has recommended that the School District provide further mitigation to the neighborhoods based upon the substantial impact of increased interference of late-night light and noise on surrounding homes.

### SIDEWALKS ON N 100TH

Licton Springs community residents are applauding Seattle Department of Transportation staff for their work in installing sections of asphalt sidewalk along several blocks of N100<sup>th</sup> St. The sidewalk greatly improves pedestrian safety, and is part of a long-standing request that came out of the Aurora-Licton Neighborhood Planning process. The community hopes that additional funding can be found to eventually extend the sidewalk even further east toward North Seattle Community College.

## SOUTHEAST

### MAYOR NICKELS WELCOMES THE SEED OF LIFE CENTER TO COLUMBIA CITY

Mayor Greg Nickels and SE Seattle community leaders welcomed Erica and Lashon Watson's Seed of Life Center for Early Learning and Preschool Language Learning Center to Columbia City. Last year, the Seed of Life Center needed to relocate from Beacon Hill due to light rail construction. The Watsons were able to successfully relocate their business and purchase their new site in Columbia City with assistance from a number of public and private partners, including the City of Seattle, Sound Transit, Wells Fargo, Evergreen Community Development Association and Community Capital Development. Seed of Life is the first African American owned childcare center in the state to receive National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation. Only centers providing high quality childcare are NAEYC designated. Seed of Life currently provides childcare services to 40 infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers, and their child care professionals speak English, Spanish, and Somali to the children.

### RAINIER BEACH COALITION FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT HOLDS SERVICE PROVIDER GATHERING

The Rainier Beach Coalition for Community Empowerment (RBCCE) recently held a half day gathering for social service providers in Southeast Seattle. There were over a dozen people in attendance. The purpose of the gathering was to provide the service providers with the Rainier Beach community's desires and needs for services.

[Happenings, continued on following page...](#)



## HAPPENINGS in your neighborhood

The gathering also gave social service providers an opportunity to network and to discuss potential funding resources. RBCCE is planning a follow-up meeting in April of 2005.

### **SOUTHWEST**

#### **TOTEM POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO GET UNDERWAY**

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department is seeking an artist to design and carve a new totem pole to replace the existing totem pole at the Admiral Viewpoint at Belvedere Park. The existing pole was installed in 1966 as a replacement for the original pole that was carved in 1901 by the Bella Coola Indians of British Columbia's coastal Queen Charlotte Islands and later installed at the site in 1939. The ravages of the weather and carpenter ant infestation have taken a toll on the pole and a replacement is needed. Artists will be interviewed later in the spring by a panel consisting of community and tribal representatives and Parks Department staff. Completion is slated for November 2005.

## COMING THIS SUMMER! **Pacific Rim Sports Summit**

JUNE 10 & 11

Olympic track and field teams from the United States, Russia, and the People's Republic of China will compete at Sealth Stadium as a preliminary for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.



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